

**Town of Sunset Beach  
Monthly Council Work Session  
March 17, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mayor Ron Watts, Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita, Councilwoman Carol Scott, Councilman Wilson Sherrill, Councilman Terry Johnson and Councilman Mike Williams

**Members absent:** None

**Attorney & Staff Present:** Susan Parker, Town Administrator; Rawls Howard, Planning Director; Bonnie Schwerd, Finance Director; Dustin Graham, Public Works Director; Lisa Joyner, Police Chief; Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief; Richard Childres, Assistant Fire Chief and Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk.

Mayor Watts called the Work Session to order.

**Draft Agenda Amendments**

Councilman Williams requested Council to add a discussion concerning Sunset at Sunset Sponsorships. The Council agreed.

**Public Comments**

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Requested Council to discuss the staffing issues with Fire Station #2 when they were discussing the Beach Patrol staffing; expressed that the communities serviced by Fire Station #2 deserve the same protection that is being provided to the communities serviced by Fire Station #1.

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Thanked Chief Dempsey for his efforts to provide beach patrol personnel that are also medically trained; requested Council to inform the public that Fire Station #2 is a sub-station not a manned station at this time.

**Budget Calendar Discussion and Adoption**

Bonnie Schwerd reviewed the Budget Calendar with the Council outlining the following schedule:

- April 21, 2015 Work Session - Presentation of the proposed 2015/2016 Budget,
- April 28, 2015 Budget Work Session - recessing until April 29, 2015 and April 30, 2015 if needed,
- May 11, 2015 - Budget Public Hearing
- June 1, 2015 – 2015/2016 Budget Adoption

Concerning the May 11, 2015 Budget Public Hearing, Schwerd advised that May 4, 2015 is the scheduled Regular Meeting date; however, there is not sufficient time between the Budget Work Sessions and the May 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Staff to be prepared to present a final proposed budget to

### **Budget Calendar Discussion and Adoption (Cont.)**

the Council and public. Schwerd requested Council to consider rescheduling the May 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to May 11<sup>th</sup> or to call a Special Meeting for May 11, 2015 for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the proposed 2015/2016 Budget. Councilwoman Scott suggested that the budget public hearing be held during the June regular meeting as in the past.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING WORK SESSIONS FOR APRIL 28, 2015, APRIL 29, 2015 AND APRIL 30, 2015 IF NEEDED. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 11, 2015 AT 7:00 PM AND TO RE-SCHEDULE THE MAY 4, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING TO MAY 11, 2015 AT 6:45 PM. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE. MAYOR PRO-TEM DEVITA, COUNCILMAN JOHNSON, COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS AND COUNCILMAN SHERRILL VOTED YES. COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

### **Board of Adjustment Term Expiration Appointment**

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT PETER SCOTT TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR A THREE YEAR TERM WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF 2018. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Planning Board Membership Structure Discussion**

Rawls Howard and the Council discussed the membership structure of the Planning Board now that the Board of Adjustment is a separate Board. Howard advised that alternate positions are required for the Board of Adjustment but not for the Planning Board. Howard also advised Council that per NCGS calculations only one ETJ representative is needed on the Planning Board. The Council discussed the pros and cons of a 5 or 7 member Board with one ETJ representative.

COUNCILMAN SHERRILL MADE A MOTION TO BE EFFECTIVE MAY 2016 FOR THE PLANNING BOARD TO BE RESTRUCTURED TO A 5 MEMBER BOARD INCLUDING ONE ETJ REPRESENTATIVE AND TO ELIMINATE THE ALTERNATE POSITIONS. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **SAS Staff Member Assignment**

Parker advised that the staff member assigned as the liaison for Sunset at Sunset will be the new Public Works Administrative Assistant once hired. Dustin Graham, Public Works Department Director, will serve as the liaison in the interim.

### **SAS Sponsorship vs Town Funding**

Councilman Williams advised that in the past the Committee has raised approximately \$10,000 annually from sponsorships. The Committee is requesting Council to advise if the Committee is to continue soliciting sponsorships or if the Town is going to fully fund the festival which includes approximately \$12,000 housed in the Sunset at Sunset fund from past festivals. Schwerd advised that funds for the festival will need to be appropriated during the April Council meeting in the form of a budget amendment.

### **Beach Patrol Operations Discussion**

Chief Dempsey explained the proposal to utilize trained Fire Department part-time personnel for the Beach Patrol operation. Dempsey advised that 2 of the current ATV's need to be replaced prior to the season beginning in April as the estimated repair costs is more than the current value of the equipment. Schwerd advised funds are available within the economic development budget that are not going to be needed for the original intended use and can be used for the purchase of the ATV's. Dempsey explained that two (2) of the four (4) full-time personnel will be stationed on the beach during the daytime and will report back to Station #1 at night to complete the 24 hour shift.

COUNCILWOMAN SCOTT MADE A MOTION FOR THE BEACH PATROL OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN SHERRILL SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **Fire Station #2**

In response to Council questions, Chief Dempsey explained that the four (4) full-time fire department personnel per shift are now being housed at Fire Station #1 instead of two (2) personnel being housed at each station. This change was made to ensure that the four (4) personnel arrive on a scene simultaneously to provide safety for the personnel. Dempsey advised that Station #2 is not closed as fire department personnel are assigned to that station to report and respond with equipment if needed. The Council requested Chief Dempsey to have the two (2) full-time personnel that are on the beach during the day to report to Station #2 at night to complete the 24 hour shift. The Council agreed to discuss additional fire department staffing during budget.

### **Public Comments**

Carol Santavicca 9109 Forest Drive – Advised that Fire Station #2 is being treated as a volunteer station but it should be treated as a paid station; Requested Council to consider additional fire department personnel.

Rich Cerrato 517 Twisted Oak Lane – Advised that Fire Station #2 is considered a sub-station without staffing and requested Council to inform the public that Fire Station #2 is not staffed at the present time.

Karen Joseph 915 Sandpiper Bay Drive – Thanked the Council for giving the Sunset at Sunset Committee direction and for the direction given concerning Fire Station #2 staffing.

**Public Comments (Cont.)**

Charles Nern 647 Oyster Bay Drive – Requested Council to hold Closed Sessions at the end of the meeting instead of the beginning; thanked the Police Department personnel for a recent presentation given at Sea Trail.

**Adjournment**

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 17, 2015 COUNCIL WORK SESSION. COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR WATTS CALLED FOR A VOTE AND THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Town of Sunset Beach**

*Ron Watts, Mayor*

Submitted by:

*Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk*

\*The March 17, 2015 minutes were approved by the Town Council during the April 6, 2015 meeting.